

Nevertheless I am struck with this circumstance, that the rugose Corals, with a tetrameral type, are hardly ever found, except in the transition-rocks; they therefore preceded the secondary Corals of the hexameral type, just as in the embryos of our living Actiniæ we see appear 4 and then 6 tentacles. The history of the organisms on the surface of the earth consequently resembles the development of an existing animal.

Some species of the Actiniæ seem to be reproduced with the greatest facility by means of little fragments abandoned by the foot. I have ascertained this process of multiplication in all the individuals of *Sagartia pellucida*\* that I kept in captivity in 1872 and 1874. Diequemare discovered the strange fact in *Metridium dianthus*.

Spontaneous scissiparity is, on the contrary, the most common mode of propagation in *Sagartia ignea*. I have observed it also in *Anemonia sulcata* †. It never takes place in *Sagartia effeta*, and in many other species which I have examined. The tendency to scissiparity and to reproduction by means of the fragments of the foot would have nearly the value of a specific character.—*Comptes Rendus*, November 23, 1874, p. 1207.

#### *Action of Light on the Development of the Young of Frogs.*

M. Thury took the eggs of *Rana temporaria* and placed them all under precisely the same favourable circumstances, except that while part received light through colourless glass, another part received it through green glass. The former developed rapidly, and by the end of May had a length of four centimetres, and well developed hind legs in most of them; while the latter were slowly developed, blackish in colour, hardly had a length of two centimetres by the end of May, and were without a trace of the hind legs. By the 10th of June the former had their fore legs and some were changed to frogs; the latter, still black, had no trace of legs, and breathed almost exclusively by means of their gills. By the 15th of July all the former had become frogs; but those of the latter still had no legs, and by the 2nd of August they were all dead without a trace of legs having appeared. Some of the young of the latter lot, transferred to the vessel of the former on the 15th of July, finished their metamorphosis. At the same time some of the former transferred to the vessel containing the latter continued to develop, showing the influence of the first impulse in their development.—*L'Institut*, Dec. 23, 1874.

\* On the 23rd of August, 1872, a *Sagartia pellucida* abandoned about ten fragments of the foot; on the 25th of August they became rounded; on the 5th of September one of them bore 8 tentacles; on the 7th of September the same fragment presented 15 or 16 tentacles.

† On the 18th of September, 1874, an *Anemonia sulcata* divided spontaneously, brought together its divided integuments; on the 21st of September the new-formed disk spread out, and the rudiments of the new tentacles were seen; on the 28th of September there were 20 tentacles.